

WELLINGBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year 1949

with the report of

A. J. STROUD, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

*With the Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health.*

SWANSPOL,
WELLINGBOROUGH.

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Wellingborough Urban District.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1949.

Area (in acres)	8,738
Population, 1931 (census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,321
„ 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	28,200
Number of separate dwellings occupied 1931 (census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,396
„ „ „ „ „ 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,312
Rateable value, 1949	...	...	...	...	...	...	£157,116
Product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£604 10/1

Live Births.					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	437	228	209	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	19	12	7	
					456	240	216	16.17

Stillbirths.					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	6	6	—	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					6	6	—	0.21

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Deaths (all causes)	...	...	...	...	366	210	156	12.97

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—rate per 1,000

Total (Live and Still) Births							
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis							Nil
Other puerperal causes	...	...					Nil

Infant Mortality—rate per 1,000 live births.

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	13	9	4	29.74
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	2	2	—	105.31
Total	...	...	...	...	15	11	4	32.89

Deaths from	(a) Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...			61
„ „	(b) Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...			nil.
„ „	(c) Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...			nil.
„ „	(d) Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...			nil.

Wellingborough Urban District Council

Members of the Public Health and General Purposes Committee :

MESSRS. H. C. L. WARWICK, C.C. (*Chairman*), R. D. PATERSON, J.P., (*Vice-Chairman*), C. A. HEARN, E. H. HEARN DEN, C.C., MISS E. A. HORN, MESSRS. P. S. JAMES, A. L. LANGHAM, J. LEA, J.P., C.A., A. J. MAYES, F. MUNDAY, H. S. TEESDALE.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

P. X. BERMINGHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Higham Ferrers.

Medical Officer of Health, Rushden Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Irthlingborough Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Wellingborough Rural District Council.

Assistant School Medical Officer.

Secretary :

MISS. J PEARSON.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Meat Inspector, etc. :

A. J. STROUD, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

D. B. HOPKINS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
SWANSPool,
WELLINGBOROUGH.

August, 1950.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wellingborough Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS HORN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year 1949.

In previous years the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector has been incorporated in that of the Medical Officer. This year a departure from this procedure has been adopted, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report will be found at the end of my report. This enables a fuller account of the work of that Department to be brought to your notice and gives a greater opportunity for this Department to express its own opinions.

I should like to thank the Executive Officers of the Council for their assistance in the collection of information concerning their Departments.

In the report will be found comparisons between the Vital Statistics for Wellingborough, towns of similar size, and those for England and Wales.

The Birth Rate was 16.17 and is the lowest of the four years following the war. The Death Rate 12.97 was higher than last year and also higher than the rate for 1947 and 1946. The Infant Mortality Rate was 32.89 and shows an increase on the rate for 1948, although the same number of Infant deaths were recorded. This is due to the fact that more Births were recorded in that year.

The situation with regard to the prevalence of Infectious Diseases was somewhat similar to the previous year, no large outbreak being recorded. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Measles showed a decrease, Whooping Cough an increase and Tuberculosis an increase of eight cases. Only one case of Poliomyelitis was notified in the area. Reference will be found to a few cases of food poisoning that occurred during the year.

Reports of imported cases of Smallpox during the year brings very forcibly to mind the situation with regard to the protection of the population of the town against this disease. Reference to this will be found in Section F of my report and from this it will be seen that the situation in Wellingborough with regard to the number of persons vaccinated cannot be considered satisfactory.

With regard to bathing facilities for the people of Wellingborough, it will be noted that the bathing place in the River Nene had to be closed on account of pollution of the River. As such relaxation is healthy and desirable, once again the need for a Public Swimming Pool for the town is emphasised.

The demand for still more houses is self evident when one considers the number of names on the housing application register.

In conclusion I should like to express my appreciation of the help and assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee during the year.

Your obedient servant,

P. X. BERMINGHAM.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area.—The Area of the Urban District consists of 8,738 acres with a density of population of 3.2 persons per acre. The housing factor for the area is 3.4 persons per house.

Population—Estimates in the Registrar General's Returns gives the mid-year population of Wellingborough for 1949 as 28,200. This shows a fall of 40 on the figure for the previous year which was 28,240. During the year births outnumbered deaths by 90.

Deaths—The Registrar General's returns show that after the necessary adjustment for outward and inward transferable deaths 366 deaths occurred during the year. This gives a rate of 12.97 per 1,000 of the estimated population and shows an increase on the rate for the previous year which was 11.86. The rate for England and Wales for 1949 was 11.7.

Of the total deaths Cancer accounted for 16.66%, Tuberculosis 2.18%, Diseases of the Respiratory System 8.74%, Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System 50%.

A table giving the causes of deaths classified in accordance with the International list of Causes of Death, 1938, will be found on page 21. Table No. 1. Deaths from Selected Causes will be found on page 22.

Births—456 Live Births occurred in the District during the period and this gives a birth rate of 16.17 per 1,000 of the population. This rate shows a fall on the previous year which was 17.91. The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1949 was 16.7.

Stillbirths—Six stillbirths were registered, all male and legitimate births. This gives a rate of 0.21 per 1,000 of the population and shows a fall on the rate for the previous year which was 0.46. The rate for England and Wales was 0.39.

Illegitimate Births—19 illegitimate births were registered, 12 male and 7 female in 1949. This gives a rate of 41.66 per 1,000 live births. Last year's rate was 49.40 when 25 illegitimate births occurred.

Maternal Mortality—No deaths were recorded under this heading. The previous year there were two deaths.

Infant Mortality—15 Infants died in their first year of life. This gives a rate of 32.89 per 1,000 live births. This rate is higher than last year's which was 29.64, although in 1948 the same number of deaths occurred, but the number of live births was considerably higher than that recorded in 1949.

The rate for England and Wales for 1949 was 32. The following table shows the Infant Mortality rate over a period of years :

1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	War years	1946	1947	1948	1949
65	64.3	38.8	22.6	46.6		28.16	35.99	29.64	32.89

Neonatal Mortality—This is a sub-division of the Infant Mortality figure and is concerned with the deaths of infants within 28 days of independent existence. Eight of the Infant deaths occurred in this period and gives a rate of 21.27 per 1,000 live births. The rate for last year was 17.78 when 7 deaths were recorded under this heading.

Table No. 10 page 28 gives the causes of deaths of Infants under one year of age.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory Services—Facilities for the examination of specimens in connection with Infectious Diseases, Food Poisoning, Food contamination etc., are provided by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Northampton under Dr. Hoyle. The assistance rendered by this Laboratory during the year is much appreciated.

Samples of water for Bacteriological examination are also sent to this Laboratory.

Milk Samples are examined at the County Council Laboratory. Ice Cream Samples are sent to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory.

Diphtheria Antitoxin—A supply of antitoxin is kept at the Health Department, Swanspool, and is available on request for Medical Practitioners in the area.

Ambulance Services—S. John's Ambulance Brigade supply this service. There are two divisions, one in Wellingborough and one at Finedon. Wellingborough—Vehicles, one 1937 Austin 20, two 1948 Ford V.8.

Total mileage for 1949 16,252 miles.

Total cases for 1949 :

850 made up as follows :

Medical ... 750

Accidents ... 80

Road Accidents 20

Finedon—one 1948 Fordson 30 h.p. No. ERP 117.

Total mileage for 1949, 2,406.

Total cases for 1949, 81.

In the area for the period 931 cases were transported by the Ambulances and a total mileage of 18,658 covered.

Nursing in the Home—The Wellingborough Nursing Association which is affiliated to the Northants Nursing Association employs two nurses for general nursing and three for midwifery. The following table shows the work carried out during the year by these Nurses :

Cases			Visits			Total
General	Midwifery	Maternity	General	Midwifery	Maternity	
311	18	164	5,951	329	3,910	10,190

Treatment Centres and Clinics—The following Clinics and Welfare Centres are held at Rock Street and are run by the County Council Health Department :

Child Welfare—Tuesday afternoons.

Ante-natal—Morning of first Thursday of each month.

Post-natal—Afternoon of first Thursday of each month.

Sunlight Clinic—Friday afternoons.

Tuberculosis—Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Diphtheria Immunisation—Morning of first Saturday of each month.

Ear, Nose and Throat—Morning of fourth Friday of each month.

The Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital holds an Out-patient Clinic at Rock Street on each Wednesday afternoon.

A Schools Minor ailment Clinic is held at Park Street School on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and at Croyland Road School on Wednesday afternoons.

A Child Welfare Centre is held at Finedon on the fourth Thursday of each month.

A new Child Welfare Centre was opened during the year at S. Andrews Hall to facilitate mothers living on the Croyland Estate and the area in that vicinity.

Isolation Hospital Accommodation—Accommodation for cases of Infectious Diseases from the area is provided at the Harborough Road Isolation Hospital, Northampton which comes under the Oxford Regional Board. Removal of cases of Infectious Diseases is by the Ambulance Service of this Hospital.

Park Hospital—which now comes under the administration of the Oxford Regional Board provides the following accommodation :

Beds for the Sick, Maternity, and Mental Defectives—246.

For old people, not sick, but unable to look after themselves —115.

Further provision for the aged chronically sick and old persons in need of care and attention for the area is provided at two further institutions :

Oundle—60 beds.

S. Mary's Hospital Kettering—238 beds.

The Wellingborough Hospital—Accommodation—adults 36 beds, children, 8 beds. Now comes under the Oxford Regional Board and caters for persons in the Wellingborough area.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply—The Ministry has requested that details concerning water supply should be given in the 1949 Annual Report of Medical Officers and so the following is the situation as far as regards Wellingborough U.D.C. The Mid Northamptonshire Water Board came into existence during the year and have delegated powers to the Wellingborough U.D.C. to act as their Agents until September, 1950 when they take over in full.

The water supply to the town is obtained from five sources, the impounding reservoir at Hardwick, the collecting trench with boreholes and deep well at Orlingbury, deep well, Wellingborough Road, Finedon, the wells at Bushfield and the Corby District Water Company.

(1) Hardwick. This reservoir is situated in the Wellingborough Rural Area and is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles N.W. of Wellingborough. It is in open country and was constructed in 1922. The reservoir is at the lower edge

of the Lime Stone and has a capacity of 80,000 gallons. Entering at the bottom level there are two systems of glazed earthenware open jointed sub-soil catch water drains. The water is drawn from the Bluestone strata and is pumped by a 16 h.p. crude oil engine or by a 24 h.p. gas engine through a 5 inch rising main to the storage reservoir at Bushfield.

(2) Orlingbury. There is a collecting trench with nine 12-inch bore holes. This trench communicates with a collecting reservoir of 120,000 gallons. A well 65 feet deep with a submerged electric motor also pumps water into this reservoir. These sources are from the Ironstone strata. These wells are in the Wellingborough Rural district and situated 4 miles N.N.W. of Wellingborough. Water from the reservoir is pumped by means of a 5 h.p. or 20 h.p. electric pump through a six-inch rising main to Bushfield. These works were opened in 1933.

(3) Wellingborough Road, Finedon—deep well. This well has a diameter of 7 feet and is sunk to a depth of 137 feet into the Middle Lias Clay. The machinery consists of pumps driven by crude oil engines. The water is driven through a 7-inch pipe into the Finedon Water Tower which has a capacity of 60,000 gallons. This water is chlorinated and has a temporary hardness of about 4 parts per 100,000. The Finedon supply is augmented by filtered and chlorinated water from Wellingborough which is pumped from Bushfields by a 25 h.p. electric motor which can deliver 8,000 gallons per hour. The water has about 27 degrees of hardness. This well was taken over at the amalgamation in 1935.

(4) Bushfield—There are five wells here, all in close proximity to each other and to the pumping station. They are sunk to a depth of 35—40 feet and are situated in open agricultural country. These wells tap water from the Great Oolite Northampton beds. These wells when sunk first yielded copiously, but tend to silt and choke in time. This is the reason why so many wells have been sunk. Wells Nos. 1 and 2 were first sunk in 1870 and 1876 respectively. No. 3 well was sunk a short period after No. 2 well and No. 4 was sunk in the Autumn of 1921. Wells No. 2 and No. 3 have a heading between them and a fifth well, subsequently sunk, practically adjoins No. 4 well, and is connected to it at the bottom. Nos. 4 and 5 are also connected to No. 2 by a syphon and the yield from No. 2, 3, 4 and 5 is pumped from No. 2 well. No. 1 well is pumped separately. An adit has been added to No. 5 well.

At Bushfield the water is softened, filtered and chlorinated. Softening is carried out by means of the lime process—Haynes and Potters system, together with filtration. The Filtration and Softening plant has an average total capacity of 312,000 gallons per 8 hour pumping day.

From Bushfield the treated water is pumped by means of crude oil or gas engines through two nine inch rising mains to the Baregrass service reservoir at Hardwick Road. The rate of pumping is 40,000 gallons per hour. The reservoir at Hardwick Road has a total capacity of 670,000 gallons and is divided into four compartments, all of which are inter-communicating.

(5) Corby Supply—Filtered and chlorinated water is supplied by the Corby and District Water Company with whom an agreement was entered into in 1941. This supply is delivered into the service reservoir at Hardwick Road by a 12-inch cast iron main, approximately 16 miles long.

Water Samples—During the year 24 samples of water for Bacteriological examination were taken in the Wellingborough area. Of these 21 samples were very satisfactory and gave no coli counts. Two samples were slightly suspicious and one unsatisfactory but no evidence of Faecal pollution. The coli counts of these three samples were as follows :

- (1) Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37C—5/100c.c.
No Faecal coli.
- (2) Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37C—7/100 c.c.
No Faecal coli.
- (3) Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37C—25/100 c.c. No Faecal coli.

These samples were taken at the canteen of the Girls High School.

This supply is on a dead end of piping and some slight contamination must have taken place. The pipes were cleaned out and subsequent samples proved very satisfactory.

Finedon Well—At the beginning of the first quarter of the year an unsatisfactory sample was obtained from this well. This was followed by two more unsatisfactory samples and one showed a small number of faecal coli. The situation was investigated with the Surveyor and alterations made to a small disposal plant for sewage from the house of the pump attendant. Also a small crack in the wall of the well which allowed in some surface water was mended. Samples taken following this were all very satisfactory. 14 samples were taken in the Finedon area and of these 10 were very satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory.

The average rainfall in inches for the year was 19.50 which is 4.69 below average.

The total consumption of water for 1949 was 268,781,000 gallons.

Average daily consumption 736,000 gallons.

Consumption per head per day 26.06 gallons.

The number of houses with a piped supply 7,926.

The number of houses dependent on standpipes 461.

The number of houses without town's supply 42.

Sewage Disposal, Drainage and Sewerage—Wellingborough—Sewage from the town is pumped up to the sewage farm which is situated between Wellingborough and Irthlingborough. The area of this farm is 372 acres. The sewage is treated by the broad irrigation method, and usually one acre is allowed per 100 of the population. The land has been demineralised and the final effluent is satisfactory. This farm deals with the sewage from a town with a population of over 24,000 people and with the trade effluents of many factories. Its situation holds up development of the town in this direction, and forms a not very satisfactory barrier between Wellingborough and Irthlingborough. Although the final effluent from this farm is satisfactory, this method of disposal, where such a large quantity of sewage is deposited over land, cannot be considered satisfactory from a Health point of view, as flies, birds, vermin, etc., can become contaminated with disease spreading bacteria, and could form a possible route of spread of such diseases.

With a future increase in population and numbers of houses, the question of an alternative sewage disposal system will have to be considered.

Finedon—Method of disposal is by broad irrigation. For a number of years the final effluent from these works has not been very satisfactory. Future plans for the reconstruction of these works will depend upon the development that takes place in this area and will necessarily have to await events.

Disinfection—Concurrent and terminal disinfection associated with infectious diseases was carried out by liquid and gaseous disinfectants as and when required. Further details concerning this will be found in the the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report. Since the closing of the Wellingborough Isolation Hospital in 1948, there is no provision for steam disinfection of articles of clothing and bedding from infectious disease cases. During the year arrangements had to be made with Rushden for the carrying out of such work. As this is not satisfactory and a town of this size requires such a plant, arrangements have been made subsequently for the setting up of a steam disinfection centre.

Swimming Baths—There is no public swimming pool in Wellingborough.

River Nene Bathing Place—An investigation of the river water was carried out during the season to see if it was fit for bathing. A series of samples were taken for Bacteriological examination and also water was taken for Chemical analysis. The results of the Bacteriological examination showed that the water was very unsatisfactory with evidence of heavy faecal pollution. The following is an example of one of these samples taken on 12.7.49. :

“Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37C—1800/100 c.c. Probable number of faecal coli, MacConkey 2 days 44C—350/100 c.c. Very unsatisfactory water with evidence of faecal pollution.”

Chemical analysis of a sample of water taken from the bathing place confirmed that gross pollution was taking place and that the river was not fit for persons to bathe in.

As a result of these investigations the bathing place was closed and as subsequent tests have shown the water still remains polluted these baths have not been re-opened.

There is a great demand for a Public Swimming Pool in Wellingborough. At present Wellingborough people have to make use of Wilby Lido, Overstone or Rushden pools, which are all situated some considerable distance from the town. A scheme to build a pool at Wellingborough was gone into before the war but was shelved on the outbreak of hostilities.

A swimming pool has been sited in the layout of the new Croyland Hall Park and this layout has been approved in principle.

Private—There is a swimming pool in the grounds of the Wellingborough School. It is fed from the town mains and has a filtering and chlorinating plant. Examination of samples of water showed free chlorine present in .5 parts per million, and samples taken for Bacteriological examination were satisfactory. Girls from the Wellingborough County High School use these baths.

School children from the remaining schools in Wellingborough go to the Wilby pool. A series of samples of water from this pool all proved satisfactory and the free chlorine was .4 parts per million.

Moveable Dwellings, Public Health Act, 1936, S.269.—There are two caravan sites in Wellingborough, one in Jacksons Lane and the second in Leighton Yard, High Street. Fuller details concerning these will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

An endeavour was made to move the Leighton Yard site as it is not very satisfactory but due to difficulties in re-housing the occupants, the matter had to be left for the present.

Public Cleansing—During the period the Tip at Irthlingborough Road was closed down and sealed off and a new tip at Gypsy Lane, Irchester, opened up. Tipping is carried out in the old ironstone workings. At first this tip caused some trouble, the local inhabitants objecting to it. This was due to the fact that at first it was not possible to enter the area from the lower end and refuse was tipped down a steep side near to Irchester. This was unsatisfactory, but now a road has been made into the tip at the lower end and controlled tipping is carried out. The Wellingborough Rural Area also tip here now.

The Council maintain five vehicles for the collection of refuse and collect weekly. The number of loads taken by these vehicles was approximately, 8,000.

Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement—With the exception of the Northern and Eastern parts of the town, Wellingborough is fairly free from atmospheric pollution. Here the local Iron works cause an emission of dust and grit which has been the source of complaint of inhabitants in that area for some considerable time. The matter has been investigated and standard Deposit Gauges set up in different parts of the town. The Atmospheric Pollution Section of the Fuel Research Station have assisted in the investigations and also Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyds Ltd., at Corby have co-operated in carrying out necessary chemical analyses of the deposits. This smoke gives a very heavy deposit and fuller details concerning the investigations that have been carried out during the period will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

In the early part of the year I carried out an investigation into the problem from a health point of view and presented a report to the Council. The following points were made as to how this smoke could be detrimental to health :

- (1) By cutting off the solar rays of the sun and thus considerably decreasing the number of hours of sun persons living in this area get compared with persons living in other parts of the town.
- (2) By the inhalation of particles contained in the smoke. Over a long period these particles could accumulate in the lymph spaces of the lungs and be a contributory factor in the establishment of Respiratory diseases.
- (3) That smoke from iron works may contain a gas that is detrimental to health.

The area that is affected by this smoke was investigated, and deaths from Respiratory diseases that occurred in this area over the last nine years were looked into, and compared with the Respiratory deaths that occurred in the whole of Wellingborough in the same period.

Taking the population of Wellingborough, excluding Finedon, to be approximately 24,200 it was found that about 24% of the population lived in the smoke area. The following figures give the details of the investigation into the deaths over the nine year period.

DEATHS FROM ALL CHEST DISEASES OF PERSONS IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF WELLINGBOROUGH COMPARED WITH DEATHS FROM THE SAME CAUSES IN A CERTAIN AREA KNOWN AS THE "SMOKE AREA" FOR THE NINE YEARS 1940—1948 INCLUSIVE.

	Total Respiratory Deaths in Wellingborough.	Respiratory Deaths in Smoke Area.	Total Pulmonary Tuberculosis Deaths in Wellingborough	Pulmonary Tuberculosis Deaths in the Smoke Area.	Total Respiratory and Pul. T.B. Deaths in Wellingborough	Respiratory and Pul. T.B. Deaths in the Smoke Area
1940	48	15	8	2	56	17
1941	27	10	12	4	39	14
1942	13	3	4	2	17	5
1943	17	6	5	2	22	8
1944	16	3	11	5	27	8
1945	15	2	6	2	21	4
1946	23	1	6	2	29	3
1947	15	4	4	1	19	5
1948	23	7	6	3	29	10
TOTALS	197	51	62	23	259	74
	=25.88%		=37%		=28.56%	

Next the area must be considered as to whether there is any other reason why it should be any more unhealthy than any other area in the town. This was carried out and housing structure, situation etc., noted. The population that inhabits the area also must be considered, e.g., as to whether there is unemployment, overcrowding etc. After all these facts were taken into account, there appeared to be no reason why the area should be any more unhealthy than any other part of Wellingborough.

In conclusion the main points revealed by this investigation show that the Respiratory deaths in the Smoke Area tended to be higher than the deaths in other parts of the town. The figures are not alarmingly high and the period under investigation was rather short, but it was my opinion that in the area there existed a factor that was detrimental to health, and

that steps should be taken to abate the smoke and dust nuisance. At a subsequent meeting of members of the Council and Officials of the Iron Works it was learnt that steps were to be taken to instal a Dust Extractor at these works and it is to be hoped that marked improvement in conditions will be brought about when this apparatus is installed.

Rivers Pollution—Pollution of the River Nene has already been referred to in this report.

Swanspool Brook—Samples taken for Bacteriological examination showed this brook to be polluted. As it runs through parks and is accessible to children this is unsatisfactory. Investigations into the sources of pollution are continuing.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

The number of applicants for Council houses on 31st December, 1949 was 946. This shows an increase of 19 on the figure for the end of 1948. During the year 108 Council houses were completed and 15 Private houses, giving a total of 123 new houses for the year. Contracts let during the year—Council houses 134. Licences for Private houses 23. Giving a total of 157 new houses.

At the end of the year 130 Council houses were under construction and 15 Private houses, giving a total of 145 houses.

Notwithstanding all this activity there still remains in the district a great demand for more houses and some insight into the tragedy caused by the lack of houses in the area is realised on inspection of the living conditions of housing applicants.

Details concerning housing inspections, repairs, unfit houses, will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report. In his report it will be noted that there is a considerable number of unfit houses in Finedon. This gives rise to a certain amount of concern as the time factor in re-housing persons living in these houses is bound to be rather considerable. From the figures it will be seen that already a very large proportion of the houses in Finedon are Council houses.

SECTION E.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

This section is dealt with in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

In 1949 the first steps were taken to set up in Wellingborough a Clean Food Guild. In recent years the number of outbreaks of Food Poisoning has shown an increase, and as more people are eating out, care and protection of food is of paramount importance.

The constitution of a committee to run the Guild, and Rules and Regulations, with Codes of Practice for the different trades, have all been gone into in detail. It is hoped that the Guild when functioning will be a success, as it is undoubtedly a step in the right direction, and with the

interest and co-operation of the Trades people, there is no reason why it should not be successful. It is in the interest of the people of the town and their sustained interest in it should be sufficient to keep it alive. The early phases of such a Guild should concentrate on teaching, and courses of instruction for traders and employees should be run. All interested persons should be encouraged to attend these courses, and full members and associate members should make every effort to attend. If, as is intended, these courses are run over a long period, there should be no excuse for traders and employees being unable to attend, as every possible facility will be offered to the different trades and courses could be held at their different premises.

Meat Inspection—Slaughtering and Meat Inspection are carried out for the area at the Government controlled abattoir at Bedford Road, Rushden. Meat inspections have been carried out in a thorough manner during the year and satisfaction can be gained from the knowledge that the meat supply of the population is guarded by a 100% inspection.

The abattoir is maintained and run in a satisfactory manner. Details regarding the inspection of carcasses locally will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

Notice of the issuing of Licences under the Ministry of Food scheme for the slaughter of pigs for home consumption is given to the Chief Sanitary Inspector by the Food Executive Officer, thus enabling the inspections of private killings to be carried out.

Meat Distribution—Some complaints were received regarding the transport of meat. This matter was investigated and persons concerned were advised.

The situation is much improved and the addition of a new vehicle should help matters considerably.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Smallpox—No cases were notified.

Vaccination—During 1949 some cases of imported smallpox occurred in the country. With modern means of travel the possibility of a person incubating smallpox being deposited in our midst is a very real one. The only protection against this serious infectious disease is vaccination, and this brings us to the situation as it exists in Wellingborough today.

The County Medical Officer in his Annual Report of 1947 stated that Wellingborough with a rate of 15.1 (percentage of successful vaccinations to registered births) was the lowest in the Administrative County. Out of 557 schoolchildren in Wellingborough examined at routine School Inspections by me in the early months of 1949 only 57 showed marks of successful vaccination. From this it will be seen that the situation in Wellingborough as far as regards the number of persons protected against this disease is unsatisfactory. The best period for primary vaccination is between the ages of 3 and 6 months. Primary vaccination in the baby carries the least risk of complications and as smallpox carries such a

high mortality rate, every endeavour should be made to give publicity to the desirability of parents having their babies vaccinated. Parents receive a letter from the County Medical Officer of Health advising vaccination on the birth of every child in the County. It is hoped that people in the area will avail themselves of the protection against a disease of such severity. If such a protection existed against Poliomyelitis few parents would refrain from having their children inoculated and yet the mortality rate for smallpox is greater than that of Poliomyelitis.

Scarlet Fever—10 cases occurred in the area during the period. Last year 15 cases were notified.

Diphtheria—No cases were notified and this is the third year in succession that the area has been free of this disease.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis—The following table gives details of the progress of immunisation amongst the child population on 31st December, 1949 :

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.								
Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1949.								
Age at 31.12.49 <i>i.e.</i> Born in Year ...	<i>Under</i> 1 1 2 3 4 1949 1948 1947 1946 1945					5 to 9 1940-1944	10 to 14 1933-1939	<i>Total</i> <i>under 15</i>
Number Immunised	22	292	241	248	246	1,352	1,513	3,914
Estimated mid-year population 1949	2,384					3,585		5,969

Number of children immunised during the year 1949 :

Under 5 years	5—14 years.	Booster doses.
419	13	186

The above table does not include children immunised by private arrangements.

An immunisation clinic is held at Rock Street Centre on the first Saturday morning of each month and comes under the County Council Health Department.

Measles—120 cases occurred during the year. In 1948 there were 267 cases. One case was removed to hospital but this was on account of poor housing conditions and not due to the severity of the disease.

The age and sex incidence of cases is given in Table No. 8 page 26.

Whooping Cough—There were 99 cases during the year compared with 43 cases in the previous year. The age and sex incidence of cases is given in Table No. 8 page 26.

Puerperal Pyrexia—Six cases were notified during the year. Two cases occurred in the previous year.

Pneumonia—32 notifications were received and nine deaths were attributed to this cause.

Cerebro Spinal Fever—No cases were notified.

Erysipelas—12 notifications were received.

Influenza—2 deaths were attributed to this cause.

Dysentery—No cases were notified.

Poliomyelitis—One case was notified.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—One case was notified.

Food Poisoning—Three cases were notified. These cases occurred at the same time as a small outbreak in the Rural area of Wellingborough. Similar cases were also reported from Kettering. The causal organism was *Salmonella Typhimurium* in all cases. Two of the cases from Wellingborough died. No common food factor could be found. Duck eggs were suspected in one case but bacteriological examination of these eggs was negative. Extensive investigations were carried out of food production premises, the abattoir, and foodstuffs from households and suspicious foods, but all proved negative. Flies may have entered into the picture as it is known that they can carry this organism. Strains of the causal organisms were typed and it was found that all cases in the area, Wellingborough Rural and Kettering, were of the same type Vi-phage 1.

At this same period some cases of food poisoning due to staphylococci were investigated, and these were probably due to contamination of food by hands.

Tuberculosis—There were 19 cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, 11 cases in males and 8 in females. 14 of these cases were Pulmonary infections (8 males, 6 females) and 5 (3 males, 2 females) of non-pulmonary infections. Last year there were 11 cases notified.

16 persons from Wellingborough were admitted to the Rushden House Sanatorium and 7 were discharged during the year. Eight deaths from Tuberculosis occurred during the year, seven were due to Tuberculosis of the Respiratory system (5 male, 2 female), and one male death was due to non-pulmonary Tuberculosis. Last year 10 deaths from Tuberculosis occurred in the area.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was 156, made up as follows :

Pulmonary	—Male 67	Female 47	Total	114
Non-Pulmonary	—Male 26	Female 16	Total	42
				<hr/> 156 <hr/>

The numbers of new cases (all forms) notified during the past four years were as follows :

1946	1947	1948	1949
35	22	11	19

The mortality during the corresponding period was :

Year	Tuberculosis—All forms			Rate per 1,000 population	
	Male	Female	Total	Wellingborough	County
1946	1	7	8	.28	.45
1947	4	4	8	.27	.36
1948	4	6	10	.35	.42
1949	5	3	8	.28	*

* Not available.

During the year much good work was carried out in the area by the Tuberculosis After Care Committee.

Four cases of Infectious Diseases were removed to the Harborough Road Isolation Hospital during the year. These cases were as follows—one measles, one food poisoning (*salmonella typhimurium*) one erysipelas and one case of poliomyelitis.

SECTION G.

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

In all factories in the area provisions as to sanitary conveniences were on the whole satisfactorily maintained. Those factories in which mechanical power is not used—the cleanliness, number employed, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors—gave no cause for serious complaint.

No action was necessary in respect of outworkers. Form 572 (Revised) has been abridged and is given as Table No. 29 page 30.

For further details concerning this section see the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

SECTION H.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1949.

TABLE No. 1.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Typhoid and para-typhoid Fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	5	2	7
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	1	—	1
8. Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
9. Influenza	—	2	2
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis	—	—	—
12. Acute infective encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M)	3	—	3
uterus (F) ...	—	—	—
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	6	3	9
15. Cancer of breast	—	4	4
16. Cancer of all other sites	26	19	45
17. Diabetes	1	4	5
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	29	27	56
19. Heart Disease	61	56	117
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	7	3	10
21. Bronchitis	13	7	20
22. Pneumonia	4	5	9
23. Other respiratory diseases	3	—	3
24. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	1	4
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	1	—	1
27. Other digestive diseases	5	3	8
28. Nephritis	4	2	6
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—
31. Premature birth	2	1	3
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury and infantile diseases	6	2	8
33. Suicide	1	4	5
34. Road traffic accidents	4	—	4
35. Other violent causes	8	5	13
36. All other causes	17	6	23
ALL CAUSES	210	156	366

DEATHS FROM SELECTED CAUSES.

TABLE NO. 2.

Year	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Cancer		Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels		Bronchitis Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1946	2	·07	6	·21	66	2·38	149	5·37	25	·90
1947	1	·03	7	·24	53	1·88	173	6·14	24	·85
1948	1	·03	9	·31	50	1·77	166	5·87	35	1·23
1949	1	·03	7	·24	61	2·16	183	6·48	32	1·13

COMPARISON OF STILLBIRTHS, ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS AND MASCULINITY OF BIRTH.

TABLE NO. 3.

Year	Stillbirths per 1,000		Illegitimate births per 1,000 live births	Male births per 1,000 live female births
	Population of all ages	Total births (live and still)		
1946	·54	29·29	62·37	1,004
1947	·53	22·93	65·72	1,022
1948	·46	25·04	49·40	1,000
1949	·21	12·98	41·66	1,111

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1949 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

TABLE NO. 4.

Year	Estimated Population mid-year	Births		Deaths			
				Under 1 year		All ages	
		No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000	No.	Rate per 1,000
1946	27,740	497	17·91	14	28·16	345	12·43
1947	28,170	639	22·68	23	35·99	346	12·28
1948	28,240	506	17·91	15	29·64	335	11·86
1949	28,200	456	16·20	15	32·89	366	12·97

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR WELLINGBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT AND 148 SMALLER TOWNS AND ENGLAND AND WALES, 1949.

TABLE NO. 5.

	England and Wales	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000-50,000 1931 Census	Wellingborough
Live Births	16.7	18.0	16.20
Stillbirths	0.39	0.40	0.21
Deaths			
All causes	11.7	11.6	12.97
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	.00
Tuberculosis ...	0.45	0.42	.28
Whooping Cough ...	0.01	0.01	.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	.00
Influenza	0.15	0.14	.07
Smallpox	0.00	—	.00
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.02	.00
Pneumonia ...	0.51	0.49	.31
Deaths under one year	32	30	32.89
Notifications.			
Typhoid	0.01	0.01	.00
Paratyphoid ...	0.01	0.01	.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.02	0.02	.00
Scarlet Fever ...	1.63	1.83	.35
Whooping Cough ...	2.39	2.39	3.51
Diphtheria	0.04	0.04	.00
Erysipelas ...	0.19	0.19	.42
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	.00
Measles	8.95	9.18	4.25
Pnuemonia ...	0.80	0.65	1.13
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.13	0.12	.03
Acute Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.02	.00
Food Poisoning ...	0.14	0.14	.10

(Other than Tuberculosis) 1949.

Table No. 6.

24

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(Other than Tuberculosis) 1949.

Table No. 7.

Disease	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Scarlet Fever		3		2	2				2	1			10
Pneumonia	1	8	7	2		1		1	1	1	7	4	32
Measles	1		2	5	11	64	25	6	5			1	120
Whooping Cough	5	2	8	14	14	6	14	3	17	5	5	6	99
Erysipelas	1		1	2						3	1	4	12
Puerperal Pyrexia		1	1						3		1		6
Diphtheria													
Dysentery													
Food Poisoning									3				3
Cerebro-spinal fever													
Poliomyelitis									1				1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum								1					1
TOTAL	8	14	19	25	27	71	39	11	31	10	14	15	284

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH
AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE.

Table No. 8.

Age Periods	Measles		Whooping Cough.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
—6 months			1	
—12 months	1	4	2	3
—18 months	3	5	2	3
—2 years	2	3	1	2
—2½ years	9	8	10	1
—3 years	3	2	1	2
—4 years	11	11	9	10
—5 years	13	10	10	12
—10 years	18	15	16	12
—15 years		1		1
15 years		1		1
ALL AGES	60	60	52	47
TOTALS ..	120		99	

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1949.

Table No. 9.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non- respiratory		Respiratory		Non- respiratory	
	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male	Male	Fe- male
—1							1	
—5			1					
—15				1	1			
—25		3	1		1	2		
—35	1	3		1				
—45	2				2			
—55	3		1					
—65	1				1			
65+	1							
TOTALS	8	6	3	2	5	2	1	

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR.

TABLE NO. 10.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Age in Weeks</i>					
	-1	-2	-3	-4	5-52	Total
1. Congenital malformations ..						
2. Diseases of Early Infancy Congenital debility and icterus	3				2	5
Premature Birth ...	3					3
Injury at Birth	1					1
Atelectasis	1					1
Others						
3. Diseases of Respiratory System					4	4
4. Diseases of Digestive System						
5. Diseases of Nervous System						
6. Tuberculosis diseases ..						
7. Infectious Diseases ..					1	1
8. Syphilis						
9. Overlaying						
10. Other Violence						
11. All Other Causes						
TOTALS	8				7	15

TABLE No. 11.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.
For the Year 1949.

PART I OF THE ACT

1—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	29	19	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	218	89	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	10	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	257	108	3	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH **DEFECTS** WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	8	7		3	—
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1		1	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1		1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)					—
TOTAL	11	9		5	—

TABLE NO. 11—continued

PART VIII OF THE ACT—OUTWORK

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel						
Making, etc. ...	365					
Cleaning and washing ...						
Furniture & Upholstery	9					
Brass and brass articles ...	9					
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper ...	5					
Brush making ...	5					
Carding, etc. of Buttons, etc.	28					
TOTAL	421					

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of
Wellingborough.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the Hygiene Services of the Council for the year 1949.

The Report gives a comprehensive survey of the work accomplished during the year, which has been one of steady progress. Difficulties have, however, been met, especially in securing the execution of essential housing repairs owing to the continued shortage of labour and materials.

The year under review witnessed the introduction on October 1st of new legislation for the control of milk, referred to in greater detail in the report. It will be seen that the general body of law has changed, bringing into operation to a large extent the policy outlined by the Government in 1943 in the White Paper "Measures to Improve the Quality of the Nation's Milk Supply."

Reference is made to the subject of Food Hygiene, which continues prominently before the public eye. Its importance cannot be over estimated in view of the recorded increase in the number of outbreaks of food poisoning during recent years. In this connection the Report of the Working Party, appointed by the Minister of Food to enquire into the conditions in the Catering Trade, is eagerly awaited.

It is necessary to-day for the Sanitary Officer to keep abreast of developments in local government administration, trade and industry in order to meet the varied problems arising from day to day. It has also become very evident during the past year that increased demands are being made upon the Department by legislation and by the general public. I feel, therefore, it is opportune to stress the need for an early revision of the establishment, as only with a sufficient staff can one's many responsibilities both to the Council and the community be adequately discharged, and the required high level of efficiency in the Service be ensured.

I am pleased to record the success in 1949 of your Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. D. B. Hopkins, in obtaining the full qualification as an Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

In conclusion I should like to record the valued assistance rendered by Mr. Hopkins, and to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health and General Purposes Committee for their continued support and to the other Chief Officers and their Staffs for helpful co-operation at all times.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. J. STROUD,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
WELLINGBOROUGH.

SANITARY INSPECTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE AREA.

TABLE A.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Total Inspections and Visits	...	...	...	...	...	4,726
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	225
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	120
Secondary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	26
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	47
Letters etc. received	...	...	...	...	...	1,116
Letters, etc., dispatched	...	...	...	...	...	1,182
Interviews with Property Owners, Agents and Builders	...	...	...	...	...	315

TABLE B.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

(a) General Sanitary Work—

Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	183
Drainage and Sewerage	...	...	...	...	...	478
Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	81
Refuse—storage, collection and disposal	...	...	...	...	...	108
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	7
Houses, let in Lodgings	...	...	...	...	...	5
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	25
Rivers Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	7
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	9
Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	30
Infectious Disease, Disinfection, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	22
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	6
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	31
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rodent Infestation Control including visits by rodent operator	...	...	...	...	...	1,350
Vermin and Insect Pests—Investigations	...	...	...	...	...	36

(b) Housing—

Inspection of Dwelling Houses under Public Health and Housing Acts	964
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(c) Shops Acts 1912—1938—

Sanitary Conditions	169
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(d) Factories—

Inspection of Factories, Workplaces and Outworkers' Premises	148
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(e) Food and Drugs Act, 1938—

Meat and Food Inspection	228
General Food Shops	102
Food Manufacturing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	35
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	...	15
Ice Cream Premises	111
Dairies and Milk Shops	105

(f) Miscellaneous Visits	487
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TABLE C.

**SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS AND DEFECTS REMEDIED
FOLLOWING SERVICE OF NOTICE.**

General—

Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	62
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	13
Walls (external) repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	19
Walls (external) repointed, rendered, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	26
E.G.s & R.W.P.'s cleansed, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	33
Yards paved or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	19
Houses cleansed, limewashed or decorated	...	...	...	...	...	73
Walls (internal) repaired	...	...	...	...	...	174
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	48
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	28
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Handrails fixed to staircases	...	...	...	...	...	6
Doors, etc. repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	16
Windows etc., repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	62
Firegrates and stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	13
Sinks provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	66
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	1
Washing boilers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	6

Drainage

Drains constructed or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	7
Drains repaired or cleared	...	...	...	...	...	28
Inspection chambers provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Soil and Vent. pipes provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Gullies provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Old drains abolished	...	...	...	...	...	7
Waste pipes provided, renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7

Water Closets—

New W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
W.C.'s repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	14
W.C.'s cleansed or limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Light and ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pedestal washdown W.C. basins fixed	...	...	...	...	...	24
Flushing apparatus provided	...	...	...	...	...	19
Flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	3

Water Supplies—

Internal water supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Mains supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wells abolished	...	...	...	...	...	1

Miscellaneous—

Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	54
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Animals—Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rats and Mice—Premises cleared	...	...	...	...	...	112

TABLE D.
NOTICES SERVED.

During the year the following notices were served :—

Service of Notices	Served	Complied with
Informal	146	135
Statutory—		
(a) P.H.A. 1936 Sec. 24	7	7
(b) P.H.A. 1936 Sec. 39	9	—
(c) P.H.A. 1936 Sec. 75	3	15
(d) P.H.A. 1936 Sec. 93	5	6
(e) P.H.A. 1936 Sec. 138	23	1
Totals	193	164

Some of the notices complied with were outstanding from the previous year. The number of notices outstanding at the end of the year was 98.

HOUSING—

There has been some improvement during the year in regard to the execution of housing repairs, but the position as a whole is very much the same as in 1948.

It has again been necessary to confine the requirements of notices to matters of an urgent and essential character, particularly so in the case of premises which have long become unfit for habitation and suitable for condemnation, and where the cost of effecting extensive repairs would be prohibitive in relation to the value of the property.

Statutory proceedings under the Housing Act 1936—

Demolition Orders made	...	...	1
Houses Demolished	...	...	1
Undertakings accepted to render			
premises fit	...	...	1
Undertakings given not to use premises			
for human habitation	...	...	—
Closing Orders made	...	...	1

Clearance Orders—

At the end of the year there were 95 houses subject to Clearance Orders, 67 being in the Finedon Ward. 47 houses were still in occupation.

13 houses were licensed under the Defence (General) Regulations for temporary re-occupation. These licences are issued for periods of six months, the houses being inspected before the licences are renewed.

Housing Survey—

In connection with the preparation of the Town Development Plans, required under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and for assessing the housing requirements of the district during the next thirty years,

the Department co-operated with the County Planning Department in carrying out a brief survey of properties in the central areas of Wellingborough and Finedon. Advice was given concerning the age and categories of houses from which it was found that there are 577 low category houses which require replacement as soon as circumstances permit.

With regard to this figure it is interesting to note that in Finedon alone there are 265 houses out of a total of 1,243, or 21.3% in this low category.

DRAINAGE AND SANITATION—

During the year 478 visits were made in connection with drainage work and alterations to plumbing systems. 63 hydraulic and smoke tests were carried out.

The emptying and cleansing of cesspools in the Nest Lane district, where 45 houses have this type of drainage, was carried out by the Rushden Urban District Council under existing arrangements on 57 occasions.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION—

The emission of dust from the blast furnaces of the Wellingborough Iron Co. continues to be a source of serious complaint and nuisance in the northern and eastern parts of the town.

The investigation and measurement of pollution by means of Standard Deposit Gauges commenced during 1948, was continued during the year. 4 gauges are at present in use, 2 additional ones having been sited during the year.

Details of the results of these investigations are shown in the following tabular summary.

TABLE E.
Total Deposits in tons per square mile.

Month	Hillside Road	Water Cooler I	Water Cooler II	Isolation Hospital	Council Depot	Average
Jan.	15.41	—				15.41
Feb.	16.20	27.40				21.80
Mar.	78.12	31.78	53.81	19.34		45.76
Apr.	21.55	45.83	87.67	7.96		40.75
May	67.54	23.39	44.60	21.07		39.15
June	51.49	13.89	25.74	12.56		25.92
July	62.94	Discontinued	32.35	17.53	21.99	33.70
Aug.	78.58		83.84	20.27	12.40	48.77
Sept.	58.67		52.59	17.12	14.80	35.80
Oct.	—		44.40	14.22	13.72	24.11
Nov.	77.84		51.32	18.95	11.83	39.99
Dec.	29.56		93.78	8.31	8.99	34.07
Average per month	50.72	28.46	56.57	15.73	13.96	35.88

Further representations were made by the Council to the Wellingborough Iron Co. with a view to securing the adoption of effective measures to reduce the degree of pollution so as to abate the nuisance. As a result steps were taken by the Company to obtain the supply of a Musgrave "Aerodynamic" dust collecting plant for one blast furnace, which, if proved to be effective, will be repeated for the two remaining furnaces.

HOUSE REFUSE—

The scheme adopted by the Council under the Public Health Act to supply and maintain dust bins at an annual charge has now been put into operation. It will naturally take some time before the large number of properties still without satisfactory refuse receptacles are supplied, but it is hoped that during the ensuing year the position will be greatly improved.

RIVERS POLLUTION—

Reports were received during the year regarding the polluted condition of the River Nene along The Embankment which was used as a bathing place. An investigation was carried out in conjunction with the Medical Officer of Health and samples of river water were taken at intervals for bacteriological examination. In each case the report of the bacteriologist stated that the water was "very unsatisfactory with evidence of faecal pollution." As a precautionary measure bathing in this section of the river has been prohibited for the time being.

There are no major sources of pollution in the Urban District.

OFFENSIVE TRADES—

There has been no change in the number of Offensive Trades carried on within the Urban District and no complaints were received.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS—

The existence of the caravan site in Leighton Yard, High Street, is still very unsatisfactory.

Further representations were made to the County Council during 1949 with a view to securing the clearance of this site under the Town and Country Planning Act. As it has not been possible to offer an alternative site or provide housing accommodation for the occupants, enforcement action has been deferred for the time being.

WATER SUPPLIES—

During the year one house, previously dependent on a well supply, was provided with main water.

Three samples were taken from wells serving houses situated outside the mains distribution area and were found on bacteriological examination to be unsatisfactory. Pending the adoption of further measures, the occupiers were advised to boil the water before consumption.

Statutory notices were served under the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Water Act, 1945, requiring the provision of proper internal water supplies to 23 houses which were dependent on common standposts. These notices were outstanding at the end of the year.

A number of houses were voluntarily provided with an internal water supply during the year.

VERMINOUS DISINFESTATION—

25 complaints of verminous infestation were received and effectively dealt with. These included Ants 1, Beetles 5, Bugs 9, Cockroaches 3, Fleas 2, Flies 1, Wasps 4.

Ten of these infestations occurred in Council houses.

DISINFECTION, etc.

36 houses were disinfected during the year, 23 following cases of infectious diseases. 101 articles of bedding and clothing were destroyed.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The inspection of factories has received as much attention as possible. During the year 108 inspections were made and 3 written notices served. Five notifications of defects in factories were received from H.M. Inspector. No prosecutions were instituted.

Improvements Effected—

Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	7
Inadequate Ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	1
Unsuitable or Defective Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	1

One basement bakehouse was permanently closed, leaving one still in occupation.

Classified List of Registered Factories as at 31st December, 1949.

Aerated Waters	...	...	...	2	Joinery & Cabinet Makers	...	12
Bag Making	...	...	...	3	Knitted Garments...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	22	Laundries	...	2
Blast Furnaces	...	...	...	1	Leather Dressers & Finishers	...	9
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	7	Leather Sorting & Cutting	...	2
Boot & Shoe etc. Manufacturers	...	...	...	49	Legging Burnishers & Manufacturers	...	3
Boot Machinery Manufacturers and	...	...	...	...	Letter Press Printing	...	7
Repair	...	...	...	2	Locomotive & Wagon Repairs	...	2
Brewers	...	...	...	2	Machine Tool Manufacturers	...	1
Brick Making	...	...	...	1	General Masons	...	2
Builders	...	...	...	2	Metal Breakers	...	1
Cardboard Box Manufacture	...	...	...	3	Metal Furniture Makers	...	1
Cigarette Case Manufacture	...	...	...	2	Art & Sheet Metal Work	...	6
Coffin Makers	...	...	...	2	Mica Plates and Discs	...	1
Concrete Block Making	...	...	...	1	Millinery	...	2
Corset Manufacture	...	...	...	1	Photo-Litho Apparatus	...	1
Curriers	...	...	...	3	Plastic Goods	...	1
Cycle Repairs	...	...	...	3	Provender	...	1
Dairies	...	...	...	3	Photographers	...	1
Dress Makers	...	...	...	2	Rag Sorting	...	2
Dry Cleaners	...	...	...	1	Rubber Heel Manufacturers	...	1
Dies & Moulds	...	...	...	1	Radio Components	...	1
Electric Supply	...	...	...	4	Saw Mills	...	2
Engineers	...	...	...	11	Sewing Machine Repairers	...	1
Fire Wood Cutting...	...	...	...	2	Sweet Manufacturers	...	1
Food Manufacture	...	...	...	12	Steel Cutting	...	1
French Polishing	...	...	...	2	Sunglasses & Comb Manufacturers	...	5
Furniture Repairs	...	...	...	2	Tailoring & Clothiers	...	14
Garages & Coachbuilders	...	...	...	17	Tarmacadam Makers	...	1
Gas Production & Storage	...	...	...	4	Toy Manufacturers	...	1
Glass Cutters	...	...	...	1	Tyre Repairers	...	3
Glove Makers	...	...	...	2	Upholstery	...	6
Grist	...	...	...	2	Watch & Clock Repairs	...	1
Iron Foundries	...	...	...	3			

Outworkers—

Half-yearly lists were received from 36 employers and 9 outside authorities in respect of 421 outworkers residing in the Urban District.

No action was found necessary in respect of unwholesome premises.

SHOPS ACTS 1912 TO 1938—

The inspection of shops in regard to sanitary arrangements under Section 10 of the 1934 Act, has been given as much attention as possible. 169 inspections were made for this purpose.

No contraventions in regard to closing hours or the employment of young persons were found.

RODENT INFESTATION CONTROL—

Continued progress was made during the year. 94 notifications were received, and 1330 visits made by the Rodent Operator. 112 infestations were treated, 15 only being of a major character. On the whole infestation throughout the area has been maintained at a fairly low level. Scattered infestations by mice, however, present a particular problem, as these are often very difficult to eradicate. The importance of this type of infestation must be assessed in relation to the danger arising from contamination of food stuffs.

The number of business and industrial premises under agreement with the Council was 12, an increase of 6 over the previous year. The value of the agreements amounted to £169.

Sewer Maintenance.—

Two maintenance treatments were carried out during the year, the results of which showed that the degree of infestation occurring previously had considerably diminished, while certain sections of the sewerage systems had become comparatively clear.

The final results were :—

Manholes baited 175, Number showing infestation 89.

In addition 82 manholes were 'test baited'—18 only showing evidence of infestation.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 and 1936.

83 licences were granted during the year, 77 for the storage of petroleum spirit, and 5 for the storage of carbide of calcium. The conditions attached to the licences have been observed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLIES—

There are in the Urban District 24 registered dairy farms and 24 retail dairies and milkshops. One new registration in respect of a dairy was effected during the year.

Sale of Milk under Special Designations—

Eleven licences were granted by the Council, viz :—

Pasteurising Establishments (Holder Process)	...	...	...	3
'Tuberculin Tested'—Bottling Establishments	...	...	...	2
Dealers—'Tuberculin Tested'	...	...	...	4
Dealers—'Pasteurised'	...	...	...	2

The number of licensed producers at the end of the year was 10, viz:

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	2
Accredited ...	...	...	8

Licences in respect of these were issued by the County Council.

Pasteurised Milk—

A very high percentage of all the milk consumed in Wellingborough is either pasteurised or sterilized.

At the end of the year a new 'Paraflow' High Temperature Short Time pasteurising plant was installed at one of the pasteurising dairies to replace a 'Holder' type plant which had been in use for very many years.

This new plant, which has operated satisfactorily since its installation, is of the latest design with automatic control of temperature and milk flow. It is very compact and yet has double the capacity of the old equipment, and is a very great improvement.

Examination of Milk—

During the year 144 samples of milk were taken for examination at the County Laboratory with the following results.

TABLE F.

Class or Designation	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	37	25	12
Tuberculin-Tested ...	27	25	2
Heat-Treated	17	13	4
Raw, Un-Designated	63	42	21
Totals	144	105	39

Of the twelve unsatisfactory results in relation to Pasteurised milk, 8 were in respect of keeping quality, and 4 in respect of insufficient pasteurisation.

During the year material changes took place in the legislation relating to milk supply following the coming into operation on the 1st October of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act 1944, the Milk (Special Designation) Act 1949 and Regulations made under these Acts.

The general effect of this new legislation has been to divide responsibility for milk production, and control, between three Government Departments, viz :

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	as to Production
Ministry of Food	as to Distribution
Ministry of Health	as to the prevention of the spread of infection by milk.

The functions of local authorities have also been revised, in so far that (a) all matters relating to milk production—including the registration of dairy farms, and the granting of licences to producers to use Special Designations, is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, and (b) the control of pasteurising and sterilizing establishments has been transferred to Food and Drugs Authorities : which for this area is the County Council.

Local authorities, however, continue to be responsible for the control of milk distribution and dairies (other than dairy farms), for the granting of dealers' licences in relation to the use of Special Designations, and generally for the hygiene of milk distribution.

While the new Regulations aim at raising the standards of milk production and distribution, it is feared that they may result in a considerable amount of overlapping of functions as between Local Authorities, Food and Drugs Authorities, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, particularly in regard to sampling, as, at various stages from the source to the consumer, the responsibility is that of all three.

Biological Testing for Tubercule Bacilli.—

Six samples of milk were taken. No evidence of tuberculosis was found.

ICE CREAM—

At the end of the year the number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream was 22, and for the storage and sale only 55. 29 premises were newly registered for storage and sale only during the year.

111 visits were made for the purpose of inspecting the hygienic conditions of ice cream premises and the taking of samples for bacteriological examination.

70 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Northampton, and examined by the Methylene Blue Reduction Test. The results are summarized as follows :—

TABLE G.

Class of Manufacture	Type of Sample	No. of Samples	Provisional Grade			
			I	II	III	IV
Pasteurised	Bulk	25	10	10	3	2
Pasteurised	Pre-packed	12	4	3	4	1
Complete Cold Mix	Bulk	33	16	10	3	4
Totals		70	30	23	10	7
Percentages		1949	42.9	32.9	14.3	10.0
Percentages		1948	27.6	34.5	24.1	13.8

It will be seen from the above results and percentages, that the results were, on the whole, better than those for 1948, but there is still need for considerable improvement in order to reach the standard suggested by the Ministry of Health. This is, that over a six-monthly period, 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade I, 80% into Grades I and II, not more than 20% into Grade III, and none into Grade IV.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1933.

The number of licensed slaughtermen on the register at the end of 1949 was 40. Seven licences were granted during the year.

LICENSED SLAUGHTERHOUSES—

Sixteen slaughterhouses in the Urban District were re-licensed during the year. These slaughterhouses are not in general use, but some are used for the occasional slaughter of pigs under the self-supplier's pigs scheme of the Ministry of Food.

One application for a licence was refused as the premises had been appropriated to some other use.

Slaughtering for the district is still centralized at Rushden Abattoir under Ministry of Food control, where all meat is subject to rigid inspection prior to delivery to local retailers.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—

Self Supplier's Pigs Scheme—

Under arrangements with the Food Executive Officer, information was received regarding all licences issued for the slaughter of home-produced pigs, in order to enable inspection of the carcasses and organs to be carried out prior to their removal. For this purpose, 159 visits were made to slaughterhouses in the course of which 317 pigs were examined. Of these 17 or 5.4% were found to be abnormal, 13 due to tuberculosis, and 4 to other causes.

PARTICULARS OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS EXAMINED AND REJECTED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

TABLE H.

Commodity	Weight lbs.	Commodity	Weight lbs.
Bacon	538	Fruit—Canned	262
Biscuits	96	Fruit Juice	5
Butter	23	Jams & Preserves	50
Cheese	74	Margarine	30
Coffee	1	Meat—canned	231
Cooking Fat	57	Meat Pies	13
Confectionery	5	Milk—Evaporated	181
Confectionery (Sugar)	45	Mixed Pickles	32
Dried Egg	1	Pearl Barley	224
Dried Fruit	12	Pigeons	10
Fish—wet	244	Poultry	19
Fish—canned	68	Sauces	4
Fish Paste	41	Sausages—Canned	7
Frozen Liquid Egg	728	Soup	16
Frozen Rabbits	120	Sugar	4
Fruit	7	Vegetables—Canned	221

Total weight of Food Condemned—1 ton 10 cwts. 9 lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.—

The provisions of the Act in regard to the compositional quality of food and drugs are administered by the County Council who is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Urban District.

The Urban Council, however, have permissive powers for the procuring and analyses of samples, but no action was taken during the year in exercise of these powers.

TRANSPORT AND HANDLING OF MEAT—

The arrangements for the transport of meat in the area remain the same, being carried out by a local contractor on behalf of the Meat Transport Organisation Ltd. which operates by agreement with the Ministry of Food.

Representations were made towards the end of the year, with regard to the general standard of hygiene of meat distribution, as the result of which a considerable improvement was made.

A new insulated van of latest design, with special provision for the hanging of meat, has since been acquired to replace a vehicle which had become unsuitable. This van satisfies hygienic requirements in every way, and is a further great improvement.

BYELAWS—

Model Byelaws Series I on the handling, wrapping and delivery of food, and its sale in the open air were issued by the Ministry of Food in October. These byelaws, which are very comprehensive, and are designed to apply to all sections of the food trade, will materially strengthen the hand of local authorities and their officers, in giving additional control over food premises and the sale of food from stalls and other vehicles.

CLEAN FOOD—

During recent years the subject of clean food handling has received much attention, and it is evident that throughout the country the general public are now demanding the achievement of higher standards of hygiene.

Towards the end of the year, the Council gave consideration to the question of a Clean Food Guild—which has since been formed—with the object of seeking the co-operation of traders and all persons engaged in food handling, in the vital task of improving the standard of hygiene in the manufacture, handling and distribution of food, and so reducing the incidence of food poisoning arising from the contamination of food-stuffs.

The establishment of such a Guild does not, of course, relieve the local authority of its statutory obligations in regard to the hygiene of food premises and food distribution, but it is felt that by enlisting the active co-operation of trade organisations, much more can be achieved in this direction.

